

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12876 012227Z

10
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 SAM-01 IO-13 EUR-12 /091 W

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R 011134Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8090
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 12876

CALCUTTA 2147 FOLLOWS. SENT TO NEW DELHI FOR ACTION ON 1 SEP 76.
BEING RPTD FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CALCUTTA 2147

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
SUBJ: INDIA/BANGLADESH

1. BANGLADESH CONTINUES TO OCCUPY PROMINENT PLACE IN CALCUTTA
PRESS. THE TONE OF REPORTING AND COMMENT IS CRITICAL BUT NOT
VIOLENTLY SO. ONE GETS THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESS IS BEING
ALLOWED TO AIR A VARIETY OF COMPLAINTS BUT IS NOT ATTEMPTING
TO INCITE AGAINST THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT, AND THAT RESTRAINTS
ARE STILL ON.

2. ALL PAPERS SEPTEMBER 1 GIVE PROMINENT FRONT PAGE PLAY TO
CHAVAN'S STATEMENT BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE
IN NEW DELHI AUGUST 31 REGRETTING BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT'S HAVING
BROUGHT THE FARAKKA ISSUE BEFORE THE UN. PAPERS ALSO REPORT
PROMINENTLY STATEMENT BY BANGLADESH COMMERCE MINISTRY SECRETARY

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MATIUR RAHMAN, DURING STOPOVER AT CALCUTTA AIRPORT AUGUST 30,

THAT BANGLADESH WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO FULFILL ITS COMMITMENT TO SELL RS 3.5 CRORES OF FISH TO INDIA. RAHMAN REPORTEDLY DEXPLAINED THAT BANGLADESH IS EXPERIENCING SHORTAGE OF FISH IN ITS OWN DOMESTIC MARKET AND ADDED THAT NO FISH HAD BEEN EXPORTED TO INDIA SO FAR THIS YEAR AND PROSPECT REMAINDER OF THE YEAR IS BLEAK. THIS IS REPORTED WITHOUT COMMENT, BUT THE IMPORT IS CLEAR TO THE LOCAL READER SINCE CALCUTTA TRADITIONALLY GETS A LARGE SHARE OF ITS FISH FROM BANGLADESH AND THERE HAVE BEEN SHORTAGES THIS YEAR AND UNUSUALLY HIGH PRICES.

3. CONGRESS-AFFILIATED AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA CARRIES CARTOON ON ITS FRONT PAGE SHOWING A FIGURE REPRESENTING CHINA POURING FARAKKA WATER OVER A BAWLING BANGLADESH, AN ALLUSION TO REPORT CARRIED IN PAPERS YESTERDAY THAT THE CHINESE HAD ADVISED BANGLADESH THAT IT CAN MAKE DO WITHOUT FARAKKA WATER. AMRITA ALSO DEVOTES ITS LEAD EDITORIAL TO THIS THEME, SAYING THAT BOTH CHINA AND TURKEY HAVE TOLD BANGLADESH THAT IT HAS ENOUGH WATER RESOURCES AND THAT SOLUTION TO ITS CURRENT PROBLEM LIES IN STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION. PAPER SAYS SOVIETS AGREE WITH THIS VIEW AND ATTRIBUTE PRESENT POLICY OF BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO "FOREIGN ADVICE."

KORN

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE12876
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760332-1084
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197609102/aaaadjfy.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INDIA/BANGLADESH
TAGS: PFOR, BG, IN
To: STATE HONG KONG
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006